

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims in the manner indicated.

1-20. (cancelled)

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~~21.~~ (New) A method comprising:

notifying an occupant of a vehicle of an occurrence of a detected sound outside of the vehicle;

wherein the detected sound is a non-audible signal.

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22. (New) The method of claim ~~21~~, wherein the detected sound is associated with an emergency vehicle.

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23. (New) The method of claim ~~21~~, wherein the detected sound is associated with a security system.

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24. (New) The method of claim ~~21~~, wherein the detected sound is associated with a toll booth.

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25. (New) The method of claim ~~21~~, wherein the detected sound is associated with a cell phone communication.

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26. (New) The method of claim ~~21~~, wherein notifying the occupant comprises disabling a sound system in the vehicle.

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27. (New) The method of claim ~~21~~, wherein notifying the occupant comprises disabling a portable communication device in the vehicle.

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28. (New) The method of claim ~~21~~, further comprising filtering the detected sound to determine a particular characteristic of the detected sound.

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29. (New) The method of claim ~~28~~, wherein filtering the detected sound comprises processing the detected sound with a processing unit.

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30. (New) The method of claim ~~29~~, wherein processing the detected sound comprises converting the detected sound to a digital representation.

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31. (New) The method of claim ~~21~~, wherein notifying the occupant includes broadcasting a prerecorded message.

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32. (New) The method of claim ~~21~~, wherein notifying the occupant includes enabling a warning indicator.

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33. (New) A method comprising:

detecting an occurrence of a particular sound; and

informing an occupant of a vehicle of the occurrence of the particular sound;

wherein the particular sound is a non-audible signal.

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34. (New) The method of claim ³⁵33, wherein detecting the occurrence of the particular sound includes:

determining if at least a portion of the particular sound comprises a predetermined characteristic.

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35. (New) The method of claim ³⁴34, wherein the predetermined characteristic is associated with an emergency vehicle.

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36. (New) The method of claim ³⁶34, wherein determining if at least the portion of the particular sound comprises the predetermined characteristic comprises converting the portion of the sound external to the vehicle to a digital representation and determining if the digital representation includes the predetermined characteristic.

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37. (New) The method of claim ³⁵33, wherein informing the occupant of the vehicle of the occurrence of the particular sound comprises disabling a sound system.

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38. (New) A system comprising:

a sound detection system coupled to a vehicle to capture at least a portion of a sound; and

a processing unit to determine if the portion of the sound comprises a predetermined

characteristic;

wherein the sound is a non-audible signal.

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39. (New) The system of claim 38, wherein the predetermined characteristic is

associated with an emergency vehicle.

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40. (New) The system of claim 38, wherein the predetermined characteristic is

associated with a toll booth.